

BETTY T. YEE, MEMBER STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Serving the 8.5 million Californians of the First Equalization District, comprised of 21 counties along the northern and central California coast, including the entire San Francisco Bay Area.



SEPTEMBER 2011 CELEBRATIONS

September is the end of summer, the beginning of autumn, and, for many students across California, the first full month back to school. This month's observances and celebrations include Labor Day and National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Labor Day - September 5, 2011

We observe Labor Day on the first Monday in September. Labor Day constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day was born out of a larger movement of working men and women across the United States who rallied together to fight for a better quality of life. The first Labor Day, proposed by the Central Labor Union, was observed on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. In 1884, the Central Labor Union selected the first Monday in September as the standing date for this annual

occasion. The union actively lobbied similar groups in other American cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of the labor movement and by 1885, Labor Day was observed in many industrial centers across the United States.

The first state bill to officially recognize the holiday was introduced into the New York Legislature, but Oregon became the first state to pass such legislation on February 21, 1887. During that year, four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York – enacted the Labor Day Holiday. By 1894, 23 other

states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Labor Day is the day the nation pays tribute to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

Events & Activities

[Labor Day in California](#)
[California Fairs and Festivals – September](#)
[California Labor Federation](#)
[United States Department of Labor – History](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week, and was expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for this celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. All of these countries

declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively.



Events & Activities

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
[National Council of La Raza – Events](#)
[20th Annual San Jose Mexican Heritage Festival](#)
[Events in Greater Los Angeles](#)